
◆The Lamoine Quarterly◆

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April 1996

Voter Turnout High for Town Meeting Lamoine among highest in state!

Crawford, Chamberlain Elected

(Lamoine) — Lamoine voters came on two contested candidates races for out in droves for the town meeting Selectman and School Committee. voting in March. Last year, the All the candidates did a very good town's selectmen decided to hold job at campaigning (and there was town meeting earlier than the nothing negative like the presidential previous few years in order to races).

increase participation. Along with In addition, the school bond the date change, the Selectmen have issue had generated a lot of talk in also felt that major policy issues town, and that probably drew out the should be voted upon by referendum voters. That issue was defeated 322- as opposed to open town meeting, to 209, and 3 ballots were voided. which has seen smaller participation.

The numbers were questions were voted on as well (see heartening. Of the roughly 1,100 page 2), and those issues had registered voters in Lamoine, 534 generated a lot of talk.

cast ballots for a 48% turnout. The **A trend?** election date coincided with the Several other communities have tried statewide Presidential primary, voting on town meeting items by which was somewhat contested on referenda, some with great success. It the Republican ticket. A whopping will be a while, if ever, before 60% of Lamoine's registered Lamoine decides all the articles voted Republicans turned out. The upon at open town meeting by Democratic ticket was pretty much referendum, but there is a clear uncontested, and 49% of Democrats indication more people participate turned out to vote. The statewide when their vote is secret. average for Republicans was 14%!

Why the turnout?

The impressive numbers can open meeting, but could not vote. probably be directly attributed to State and Federal law requires that some very hotly contested issues you must declare residency in a town being decided at the ballot box at when you register to vote there. town meeting. Voters had to decide

(Lamoine) — Voters have elected a new member of the Board of Selectmen and the school board in balloting held March 5th. Two people were on the ballot for Selectman. Glenn Crawford was supported by 272 voters and Antje Ludwig was favored by 212. It was the first try at local office for both candidates.

Kathy Chamberlain will return to the school board after winning a very close vote. She outpolled incumbent Griff Fenton 262 to 233. Kathy served one term on the school board from 1992 to 1995 and previously held office as Town Clerk. Griff had won election to the school board last year to fill an unexpired term.

In other voting. Barbara Bartosenski was returned as Town Clerk and Tax Collector in an uncontested race. She received 508 votes of the 534 votes cast.

Taking the assessor's seat was Patricia Wallace, who mounted a successful write-in campaign. She received 82 votes. No other write in received more than 3 votes. Pat is a former real estate agent, She replaces Elisabeth Curran who chose not to run again.

Inside: **Liquor Vote April 19th—2**
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Special Town Meeting on April 19th Sunday Liquor Sales on warrant

(Lamoine) — A special town meeting will be held on Friday, April 19th, 1996 beginning at 3:00 pm at the Town Hall. The highlight of the town meeting will be a referendum vote between 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm on whether liquor sales should be allowed on Sundays.

The Board of Selectmen received a petition signed by 113 voters requesting that the issue be put to referendum. The owners of the new Lamoine General Store collected the signatures from their customers during the first two weeks of operation.

In 1994, Lamoine voters decided to allow sale of beer and wine for off premises consumption on days other than Sunday. The passage was a key factor in allowing the store to open. Owner Ruth Keene says they have lost quite a bit of business to out of town stores because of the inability to sell beer and wine on Sunday.

Two Minor Items

Two other items will be decided in open town meeting forum at the head of the meeting. One would give permission from the town meeting for Selectmen to enter into contracts for operations of the town. This has not been done before, and the authority to enter various contracts has been presumed. Passage would merely allow the practice to continue. The other item would affirm that the assessor elected on March 5th will serve a 3 year term. A misprint on the ballot indicated a one year term. The traditional term has been for 3 years.

Four Referenda Pass at March 5th Town

(Lamoine) — Voters gave enthusiastic approval to an ordinance change, a new ordinance, and a new comprehensive plan.

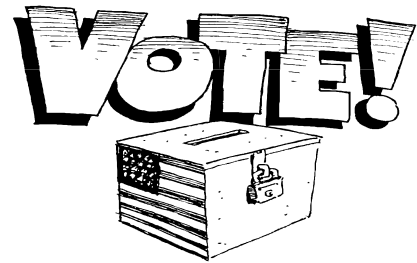
Changes to the gravel ordinance passed by a 3 to 2 ratio. The changes include more flexibility for a restoration plan, greater flexibility for groundwater protection, a noise section, and clarification on setbacks. An attempt to modify the ordinance last year was rejected when pit operators objected to extremely stringent restoration provisions.

The street naming and numbering ordinance passed by a 4 to 1 ratio. This ordinance allows the Selectmen to appoint a committee to assign names to public and private roads. The committee actually started work before passage and should have a plan ready in the next few months.

The Comprehensive Plan passage is seen as a great victory for local control. The plan passed by a 3 to 2 ratio. Opposition was general in nature. Charlie Major and his committee worked for 5 years to come up with a plan that was acceptable to both the voters and the State Planning Office. In late January, the State gave the go ahead to vote on the plan, albeit reluctantly.

The final question was also the most controversial. It asked if voters wished to discuss, in the open town meeting, funding for various organizations which requested funding from the town. Originally,

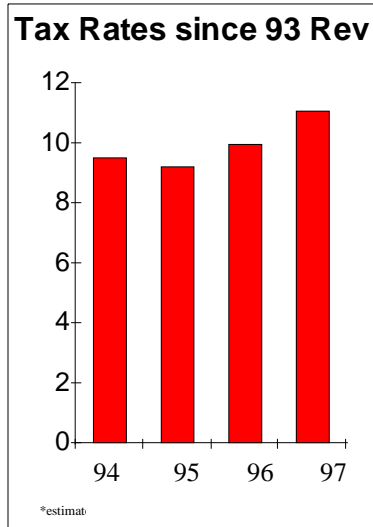
the Selectmen felt that tax dollars should not be given to such agencies, but a petition was received asking that the issue be left to town meeting. In what amounted to a policy question, the Selectmen asked on the referendum ballot if that was the feeling of the voters, and of the 534 who cast ballots, the issued received 272 votes in support, and 249 votes against. The requests indeed went to the floor of town meeting, and all requests were funded this year. The Selectmen will appoint a committee to review such requests in the future to decide which are worthy of funding.



March 5th Referenda Results

Issue	Yes	No
School	209	322
Gravel	297	202
Comp Plan	305	194

Tax Rate may increase



(Lamoine) — The estimated tax rate for 1996/1997 is expected to rise significantly this coming year, although it will be a while before the final rate is set. Following action at town meeting, the estimated tax rate is \$11.06 per \$1,000 valuation, or 11.06 mills. This may be reduced somewhat by state municipal revenue sharing.

Depending on what direction the school department comes up with for a building plan, the needed property taxes could rise or fall. There are three measurable components of property tax. The school articles passed at town meeting require the town to raise \$120,000 more in taxes. County taxes are up about \$5,000. Municipal budgets decreased the tax need by about \$3,000. The tax rate also greatly depends on the total valuation, and the \$11.06 estimate is based on a very modest valuation increase. Valuations will be determined as of April 1, 1996, and building activity has been moderate this year. Tax bills should be ready in August this year.

Assessors to hit road in April

(Lamoine) — The Lamoine Board of Assessors will be visiting many properties beginning April 1st. Under Maine State Law, all property values are set as of April 1st of each year. The assessors work from information in building permits, plumbing permits, and personal observation in determining the properties which need to have updated valuation information.

The work of the assessors is integral to the tax rate. The higher the local valuation, the lower the tax rate. All properties in town are billed on the same rate schedule.

Board Chairman Tom Bowen reports that work is proceeding quite well this year. He says they hope to have the local valuation work completed in June. That could mean that tax bills will be ready for printing and distribution in July. The town office had received several inquiries in the past couple of years asking why we wait until September to mail the bills. The answer came down to delays in determining the final property values.

People who question their value are invited to make inquiries to any of the assessors. The current board members are Tom Bowen, Jane Fowler, and Elisabeth Curran. Pat Wallace will join the board July 1st, and Lis will step down.

The assessors and Selectmen will also be working closely in the next year to refine the role of the Board of Assessors. Several options will be explored, including the possibility of using an outside assessor's agent to help with a lot of the paperwork. Your input is welcomed!

Town to enter contracts with Library, YMCA

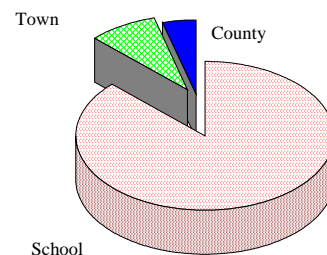
(Lamoine) — The town meeting voted to allow the Selectmen to enter contracts with both the Ellsworth Public Library and the Downeast Family YMCA. These two organizations will provide municipal government services, namely library services for town residents, and recreational programs year round.

The Selectmen felt both services are a very necessary function of town government, and opted to change the status of the two organizations from those which receive charitable contributions to a contractual relationship in return for the services.

Both agreements are in the process of being drafted. The library agreement is expected to be very general in nature. In return for payment to the library, residents will be allowed to have all services that Ellsworth residents enjoy.

The YMCA agreement will add more formality and protection to the town's recreation program. The "Y" will be in charge of recruiting and training coaches, equipment, organizing and insuring the various recreational activities in town.

Tax Breakout from



Resignations leave board vacancies

(Lamoine) — The Board of Selectmen will have to fill vacancies on two town boards created by recent resignations.

The Planning Board has lost alternate member Henry Veilleux. Hank has been on the board, first as a full voting member, and then as an alternate, since 1993. He told the Selectmen he found it difficult to attend all the meetings, and would rather give someone else the chance to serve. We appreciate Hank's thoughtfulness and willingness to serve. He will be missed.

Leaving the Budget Committee in mid term is Will Boddy who also found it difficult to attend all the meetings. Will has been on the committee since its inception, and has brought a true passion for scrutiny of the town and school budgets to his job.

Planning Board member Karen Eaton was recently hospitalized with a broken hip after a nasty fall on an icy Mill Road near her home. Word is she's recovering nicely, but won't be running in the Boston Marathon this year.

The Planning Board generally meets the first Tuesday of each month, and the alternate votes in case a regular member is absent. It's important for the alternates to attend to keep up to speed on the issues.

The Budget Committee's work begins in November and runs through the annual town meeting in March. Special town meeting issues dealing with money require budget committee review.

If you are willing to serve on either committee, please contact the town office.



Recycling Contract Signed

(Brewer) — After some anxious moments waiting for the proper contract language to arrive, the Board of Selectmen signed a 5 year contract with Browning Ferris, Inc. of Maine (BFI) to transport and process our town's recyclable materials. The contract marks the end of a lengthy and controversial process which required town meeting approval, and greatly shook things up with Coastal Recycling.

BFI offered the town full recycling service for \$1,380 for the first year, with small incremental increases following. The firm was by far and away the lowest bidder. The move means Lamoine's cost for recycling will drop in the 1996/97 budget by nearly \$8,500.

Users of the Lamoine Recycling Station will notice only minor differences. BFI will supply new bins and signs. The old ones will be returned to Coastal Recycling. An outside container for cardboard will be in place, freeing up more storage space inside the building. A new education program is also included in the package, and we look forward to increasing an already successful program even further.

The down side of the change is our exit from Coastal Recycling, and the termination of the transport contract with Rusty Boynton who's done a good job the past 3 years.

Miserable winter for transfer station

(Lamoine) — In the nearly 3 years the Lamoine Recycling Center and transfer station has been open, attendant Allen Sternfield has taken great pride in not missing a scheduled opening. On March 8th, the streak came to an end.

That Friday, Maine was hit with the biggest blizzard of the season. Well over 14 inches of snow fell. The decision was made early on not to open. We checked with the commercial trash haulers, and only one planned pickups that day. He was met at the gate at noon and dumped what little trash was on board, and the station remained closed for the day.

Allen notes that just about every weekend has been plagued with either ice, snow, or extreme cold. On a couple of occasions the transfer station was closed early for safety considerations. The ice buildup caused cars to fishtail, and walking was very difficult. Instead of subjecting the town to a potential liability, the facility was closed early.

The station did open as scheduled on March 9th, though the snow plow was a bit late, and Allen's car got stuck. When the snow was plowed, it buried one of the gates, and it took a couple days to dig that out and secure the facility.

A tip for those who bring their recycling and trash on really stormy days. Arrive early! There is plenty of room, but the longer bad weather lingers, the greater the chance for an early closure! Closings are announced on the radio (Kiss 94, Lucky 99 & WDEA)

School Clean-up Set

(Lamoine) — April 3rd has been set by the Lamoine Consolidated School as School Pride Day. Students, staff and community volunteers will pitch in and help improve the school building and grounds. Projects range from painting a handicap parking space to staining the recycling bin. Volunteers are needed to pitch in and bring rakes, brooms, wheelbarrows and the like. There is plenty of work to do, and your help is needed.

By involving the students in the projects, the school meets a goal of the Maine Learning Results project to have students leave school as responsible and involved citizens participating in projects that affect the community. That's a goal we can all aspire to.



Welcome To...

(Lamoine) — Only a few births to report since our last issue. **Sarah Anne Smith** was born January 5, 1996, our first baby of the new year. Sarah's mom is Laura Yustak Smith, an attorney with Hale & Hamlin. Dad is Dennis Smith, an assistant District Attorney. Sarah joins her big brother and family on the Buttermilk Road.

We had to go out of town to find our next baby. **Anna Marie Ashmore** was born to Robin and David Ashmore in Colorado on February 3, 1993. David and Robin sent a picture, and she's just beautiful. Dad is the former road commissioner for Lamoine.

Our final baby is already famous. Elizabeth Rose Alvarez was born on February 29th, leap day. Her picture was in the *Ellsworth American*. Mom and Dad live on Route 204, one mailbox past town hall.

Dog Licenses Due

(Lamoine) — A reminder to those who missed the January 31 deadline for dog licensing...you must license your pup now. The Animal Control Officer will be given a list of delinquent dog owners, and will deliver a warning. The extra \$10 charge will be added to the license fees. Those who fail to heed the warning may be summonsed to District Court and subject to a fine.

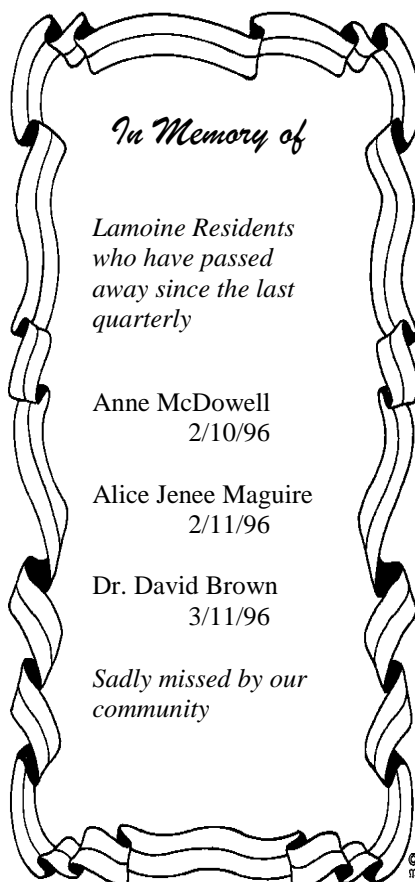
Road Projects Planned for

(Lamoine) — Three short paving projects are planned for the summer months, all involving sections of dead end roads. Clamshell Alley and Cos Cob Avenue will have a new pavement layer put down. It has been well over 10 years since either was paved. Seal Point Road will also see a couple hundred more feet paved to complete the project begun last summer.

The paving will involve closing all three roads during the time the paving machines do their thing. The Town Office will do its best to inform residents living on all three roads as to when the pavement will be put down. Flyers will be distributed to each home along the affected roads warning of the closures.

The paving project is part of the joint purchase of asphalt program run by the Hancock County Planning Commission and Pavement Management Services of Bucksport. By using this program, Lamoine is able to combine its pavement requests with other towns, creating an economy of scale for the low bidder. We've been saving up to \$7/ton by using the program, and at the same time getting independent assurance that the product we ordered was indeed the product being placed on the roads.

More ditching work will be performed along other roads in town during the summer. Some major preparation work will be done on the lower section of Buttermilk Road in anticipation of a major rebuilding project next summer. Substantial work is also planned for Mill, Needle's Eye, and Shore Roads.



Lamoine General Store Opens

(Lamoine) — Saturday, February 10th, marked a big step in Lamoine as the first retail business in town in several years opened its doors to the public. The Lamoine General Store is also the first business in town to legally sell beer and wine since prohibition.

Buying the first product at the store was Jordan River Road resident Mike Bradford. The youngster had to get up pretty early that Saturday morning to make his purchase, but had planned for weeks to be there first thing.

The first legal beer sold in Lamoine was purchased by a former Selectman with the initials G.S.

Owner Ruth Keene reports the first few weeks have gone very well. She has hired at least one extra worker to take some of the pressure off herself.

The store features a full line of convenience products from milk and bread to pet foods. The coffee and lunch counter have been very popular. Ruth does report, though, that business tends to drop off a bit during the road posting season when the gravel trucks are not running.

Plans for the property include seeding the hill behind the store in the spring, and possibly paving the parking lot which has become quite rutted during the mud season. The town also plans to erect no parking signs along route 184 as required by the traffic ordinance changes recently approved by the Selectmen. Those changes were among the conditions under which the building permit was approved. A lowered speed limit is still under study by the State.



No "Kid"ding, Dairy Farm Proposed

(Lamoine) — The Lamoine Planning Board will have to decide if a Goat Dairy Barn will be allowed near the intersection of Routes 204 and Walker Road. Barbara Brooks, who recently purchased a plot of land on the north side of Route 204, has asked for approval of a barn and dairy parlor in anticipation of having a goat farm.

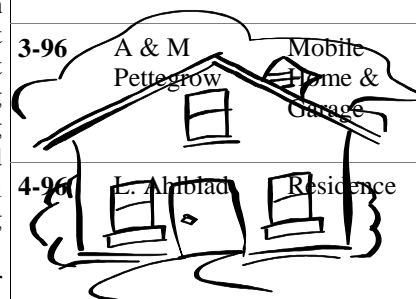
The original application came to the Code Enforcement Officer. It was determined that because the barn and milking operation are on a plot not being used as a residence, the farm would be classified as a commercial application, which requires Planning Board approval.

A hearing is scheduled for April 2, 1996 at 7:00 pm at the Lamoine Town Hall. Action may be taken following closure of the hearing, or the board could delay decision for a short time.

The application marks the third commercial building permit requested in the current fiscal year. Prior to this year, it had been several years since any application for a commercial building permit. The Planning Board has also been requested to explore possibilities in making the commercial building permit process a little easier for applicants to deal with. So far, no specific changes have been proposed.

Winter months slow for buildings

#	Name	Type
48-95	D & C Tozier	Residence
1-96	Charles W. Hemingway	Add'n & Garage
2-96	S. & M Kelley	Mobile Home
3-96	A & M Pettegrow	Mobile Home & Garage
4-96	L. Ahlblad	Residence



The Lamoine Quarterly is published 4 times yearly by the Lamoine Town Office.

Subscriptions are \$4 annually by mail. A free copy may be obtained at the Lamoine Recycling Center, the Town Hall, and through the Lamoine School.

Editor is Stu Marckoon, Town Administrator, and the Board of Selectmen. Our phone number is 667-2242. Your comments are welcome and appreciated!

Fire Calls numerous for winter

(Lamoine) — The Lamoine Fire Department was kept hopping in the past few weeks by a number of chimney fire calls. Compared to recent years, the number of calls has been up for the quarter.

No serious damage was reported in any of the chimney fires, but a vehicle was pretty much destroyed in a car fire, across from the fire house in early January.

A couple of disturbing trends are being noted during fire calls too. The first is the need for a uniform road naming and numbering system. Several of the recent calls have resulted in confusion as to the location of the complaint. A false alarm at a relatively new building in town had the alarm company give the dispatcher the wrong fire road number. This resulted in a delay in fire equipment and personnel finding the scene. On election night, a chimney fire call to a Seal Point Road residence also resulted in a bit of confusion as to the location. The mailbox number was confused with the fire road number, and the two did not coincide. Thankfully, neither situation was a dire emergency, and help got there eventually.

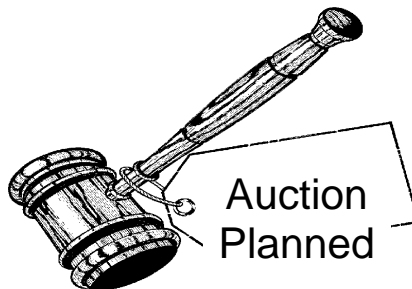
The other trend comes with false alarm calls. Several homes have started to install fire and burglar alarm systems. This is a great detection idea, but many systems have bugs, resulting in false alarm calls. The fire department is in the process of formulating a policy to provide two free calls per year on false alarms, but charging a fee per call after that on the alarm. The policy will be presented to the Selectmen for approval in the near future.

III Fireman Recovering, funds

(Hancock) — One Thursday evening in January, fireman Paul Crossman and his fiancé Mary Ellen were at the firehouse when a chimney fire call came in. Paul drove our new pumper, Mary Ellen was in the passenger's seat. The fire was quickly extinguished, and all was fine. That next Monday, Paul visited the doctor after complaining of dizziness. An MRI found a mass in his brain stem, and it wasn't operable. The outlook was grim.

Radiation and chemotherapy seem to have performed a miracle. At last word, according to Paul, they did a CATSCAN of his head and found nothing (the department razzed him about that statement).

Money is very tight. The department held a supper to help out Paul in March. He's expected to be out of work for a year while recovering from the treatment.



(Lamoine) — Plans are under way for the Fire Department to hold an Auction, August 3, 1996. The fundraiser will replace the popular yard sale which was abandoned last summer. Donations are being solicited from area businesses. The department will be raising funds to continue help in equipment needs for fire protection. More details coming in the next edition of the Quarterly.

Road Naming Proceeding Help Requested for Private Road Names

(Lamoine) — While voters were contemplating an ordinance to set up a committee to name our roads, the committee was actually at work doing just that. The chairman is Jo Cooper, who is also president of the Historical Society. Other committee members are Jerry Jordan, Jim Willis, Carleton Brodie, and David Smallidge.

Routes 184 and 204 will have new, local names, and be sectioned off. The probable names for Rte 184 are Douglas Highway (from Route 1 to the Grange) and Lamoine Beach Road for the rest. Route 204 will have 3 sections. Jordan River road runs from Route 184 to Route 3. Pinkham Flats runs from route 184 to Mud Creek Road. Hodgkins Road will run from Mud Creek to Marlboro Beach Road. The Committee could use more name ideas, especially for the many private roads. The naming should be done by June and sent to the Selectmen for a hearing and then approval.

New Firefighters Named

(Lamoine) — The Fire Department membership recently approved two new members. Mary Ellen Miller and James Carney have joined the ranks. They will be trained, and will soon be putting out fires in town with the rest of the force. Welcome

aboard, and thank-you!

Upcoming Events

April

1st Property Valuations Fixed
School Board, 6:30 pm
@ School
2nd Planning Board, 7pm
@ Town Hall
3rd School Pride Day 9am
@ School
10th Selectmen, 6:15 pm
@ Town Hall
15-19 School Vacation
15th Office Closed, Patriot's
Day
16th Office Closed, Adm.
Vacation
19th Special Town Meeting
3pm, voting 'til 8pm
@ Town Hall
24th Selectmen, 6:15 pm
@ Town Hall
25th Road Naming Committee
7pm @ Town Hall

May

6th School Board, 6:30 pm
@ School
7th Planning Board 7:00 pm
@ Town Hall
8th Selectmen, 6:15 pm
@ Town Hall
22nd Selectmen, 6:15 pm
@ Town Hall
23rd Road Naming Committee
7:00 pm @ Town Hall
27th Office Closed, Memorial
Day Holiday

June

3rd School Board, 6:30 pm
@ School
4th Planning Board, 7:00 pm
@ Town Hall
5th Selectmen, 6:15 pm
@ Town Hall
11th Primary Elections 10am to

8pm @ Town Hall.
Possible Town Referendum
19th Selectmen, 6:15 pm
@ Town Hall
27th Road Naming Committee
7:00 pm @ Town Hall
30th Fiscal Year Ends

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